

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES  
CALIFORNIA WATER COMMISSION  
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August 18, 2011

Chairman Phil Isenberg and Members of the Council  
Delta Stewardship Council  
980 Ninth Street, Suite 1500  
Sacramento, California 95814

RE: Fifth Draft of the Delta

The California Water Commission appreciates the opportunity to comment on the Fifth Draft Delta Plan (Delta Plan), dated August 2, 2011. Please consider these comments for the Environmental Impact Report as well.

We commend the Council for its excellent work on issues that are critical to California's water supply reliability and protecting, restoring, and enhancing the Delta ecosystem. Consistent with earlier discussions between the Water Commission and Delta Stewardship Council Chairman Isenberg, this draft of the Delta Plan outlines a role for our agencies to work together to expand existing surface and groundwater storage facilities, improve operation of existing Delta conveyance facilities, and enhance opportunities for conjunctive use programs and water transfers (Chapter 4, WR R7). This recommendation is consistent with our statutory responsibilities as well as with our current activities on water storage.

The California Water Commission is holding two public workshops this fall to examine the needs, options and outlook for water storage in California. The purpose of the workshops is to inform the California Water Commission of existing, planned and needed storage projects to ensure reliable and sustainable water supplies; help address water quality issues; and provide for a healthy environment. The workshops will also provide a forum to discuss the benefits, costs, and consequences of a broad array of surface and groundwater storage projects and operational changes, particularly in light of climate change impacts, as well as a discussion of public benefits of storage. These workshops will contribute greatly to the recommendation in the Delta Plan that agencies and stakeholders collaborate to identify projects and strategies that can be implemented over the next decade to benefit the Delta and water management statewide, and to use this approach to make decisions about public funding for projects.

The California Water Commission strongly supports recommendation WR R7 and is committed to working with the Council as a partner in furthering the co-equal goals of water supply reliability and ecosystem restoration. Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Anthony Saracino". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Anthony" and last name "Saracino" clearly distinguishable.

Anthony Saracino  
Chair, California Water Commission